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Department of
Natural Resources

Division of
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GOVERNOR WALKER HONORS CASTLE VALLEY AS UTAH'S NEWEST FIREWISE COMMUNITY

Utah Governor Olene Walker will sign a proclamation Thursday, September 16, 2004, honoring Castle Valley as Utah's newest Firewise Communities/USA site. The signing will take place in the governor's office at 10:00 a.m. The Firewise Communities/USA program recognizes communities for taking action to protect lives and resources from the risk of fire in the wildland/urban interface.

Firewise Communities/USA is a national program administered by the National Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program. The program is of special interest to small communities and neighborhood associations that are willing to implement programs to safeguard against wildland fire.

To date, 45 communities across the country have received this recognition. Castle Valley is the third Utah community to receive recognition, joining Emigration Canyon near Salt Lake City, and Sundance near Provo, which were recognized in 2002.

"Castle Valley is just one of more than 400 Utah communities identified as a 'at risk' community from wildland fire," said State Forester Joel Frandsen. "Many of these communities are just beginning to take steps to protect themselves so it's gratifying to see Castle Valley achieve this distinction."

To obtain this recognition, several members of the Castle Valley community came together and formed a board to organize the community's Firewise efforts. Working in cooperation with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, the Bureau of Land Management, the Desert Edge Interagency Fuels Committee, the Utah Living With Fire Committee, and other local, state and federal agencies, the board created a community fire plan. Using this plan the community executed a Firewise Day in November 2003 where residents learned how to better protect their homes from wildland fire.

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